

MINUTES

COUNCIL ADMINISTRATOR FORM OF GOVERNMENT FOR AIKEN COUNTY

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 736 RICHLAND AVENUE, W., AIKEN, S. C.

REGULAR MEETING – MARCH 7, 2006 – 7:00 P. M.

(A) CALL TO ORDER

Determining that a quorum was present, Chairman Young called the meeting to order.

Council Members present:

Chairman Ronnie Young
Kathy Rawls
Scott Singer
Chuck Smith
Eddie Butler
Charles Barton
Gary Bunker
Willar H. Hightower, Jr.

Council Members absent:

LaWana McKenzie

Also present:

J. Clay Killian, County Administrator
Robert M. Bell, County Attorney
Tamara Sullivan, Council Clerk

(B) INVOCATION

Councilman Hightower led in the invocation.

(C) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Bunker led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(D) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. February 21, 2006 Worksession
 2. February 21, 2006 Regular Meeting
- a. Councilman Smith made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilman Butler seconded.
 - b. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

(E) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- a. Councilman Barton made a motion to amend and approve the agenda as follows:
 1. Add Old Business Item 1 – Discussion of the Graniteville Disaster Fund requested by Councilman Hightower.
 2. Add Consent Item 6a – Proposed Resolution To Authorize the Purchase of 2.057 Acres of Land for the Belvedere Drop Off Site and to Accept the Deed for the Property in the Amount of \$24,000.

3. Add Consent Item 9 – Proposed Ordinance To Amend the Fee for Ambulance Services to Conform to the New Federal Medicaid Billing Regulations.
(First Reading)
- b. Councilman Butler seconded the motion. The amended agenda was approved by unanimous vote.

(F) OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion of the Graniteville Disaster Fund requested by Councilman Hightower.
(ADDITION)
 - a. Councilman Hightower commented on the funds allocated by the State and stated that the funds should be used in Graniteville. Councilman Hightower stressed that sympathy for the Graniteville train derailment should not have been used to acquire the funds if the funds were not going to be spent in the Graniteville Community.
 - b. Several Councilmembers responded, pointing out that none of the funds had been spent. The decision on the use of the funds would be made during the budget discussions for FY 2007. It was pointed out that citizens throughout the entire County were impacted by the train derailment and continue to be. Funding of the 211 System, which was utilized during the emergency, was suggested as a possible recipient of some of the funds. Councilwoman Rawls stated that every railroad crossing should have signals and cross arms to prevent accidents.

(G) CONSENT AGENDA/INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

I. REGULAR CONSENT AGENDA

1. Proposed Resolution to Appoint One Member to Designated Boards, Commissions and Committees with Terms of the Appointees to Run Concurrent with that of the Councilmember from Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7.
(Rawls, Singer, McKenzie, Smith, Barton, Bunker)
2. Proposed Resolution to Appoint Two Persons to the Thoroughbred Country Tourism Advisory Committee.
(Development Committee)
3. Proposed Resolution to Approve the Allocation of Funds for Various Non-Profit Agencies from the FY 2006 Council Contingency Fund.
(County Council)
4. Proposed Resolution to Waive All County Fees Associated with the Renovation of a Town Building in the Town of Salley.
(County Council)
5. Proposed Resolution to Request that the South Carolina Public Service Commission Provide an Extended Local Calling Area so That All Citizens of Aiken County can Make Telephone Calls Within the County Without Incurring Long Distance.
(Development Committee)

6. Proposed Resolution to Authorize the Council Chairman to Execute a Document for the Center Fire Department Stating That Aiken County Has No Obligation to Pay for a Pumper Truck.
(County Council)
- 6a. Proposed Resolution To Authorize the Purchase of 2.057 Acres of Land for the Belvedere Drop Off Site and to Accept the Deed for the Property in the Amount of \$24,000.
(ADDITION)

II. CONSENT AGENDA/INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

7. Proposed Ordinance to Amend Section 24-127 Available Public Facility Service of the Aiken County Code of Ordinances to Redefine When Connection Must be Made to Public Sewer for New Developments.
(Development Committee)
8. Proposed Ordinance to Amend Chapter 23, Utilities, Article III Sewers and Sewage of the Aiken County Code of Ordinances to Clarify When Buildings Must be Connected to Public Sewer Lines.
(Development Committee)
9. Proposed Ordinance To Amend the Fee for Ambulance Services to Conform to the New Federal Medicaid Billing Regulations.
(First Reading) **(ADDITION)**
- a. Councilman Smith made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilman Butler seconded.
- b. The Consent Agenda was approved by unanimous vote.

(H) PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

1. Proposal for Use of Local Option Sales Tax Funds at the Aiken County Museum.
(Mr. Owen Clary, Chairman, Aiken County Historical Commission)
- a. Mr. Clary reviewed a compiled list of needs and repairs for the museum, which was distributed along with a strategic plan submitted by the Historical Commission.
- b. Councilman Butler pointed out that based on information supplied by the Historical Commission and staff, the One Cent Sales Tax Committee reduced the amount of funding allocated for the museum.

(I) ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND THE PUBLIC RECORD

1. Fiscal Year 2006 Aiken County Contingency Report as of February 22, 2006.

(J) INFORMAL MEETING OF WHOLE

- a. Mr. Jet Beckum suggested that the old museum be sold and a new one built in order to cut the cost of upkeep on the current building.
- b. Mr. Jerry Devine addressed Council about an ambulance bill he received in 2000. Mr. Devine requested that his bill be written off by the County because in his opinion the trip was not medically necessary.

Council requested that Mr. Killian and staff provide them with the details pertaining to Mr. Devine's complaint.

- c. Mr. Phil Napier requested to speak to Council about the Graniteville Disaster Funds. The majority of Council voted in favor of Mr. Napier speaking with Councilman Smith voting in opposition. Mr. Napier reiterated that he felt the funds allocated by the State should be used in the Graniteville Community.
- d. Ms. Tina Bevington requested to speak to Council about the Graniteville Disaster Fund. The majority of Council voted in favor of Ms. Bevington speaking with Councilman Smith voting in opposition. Ms. Bevington stated that the Graniteville Disaster Fund Committee would be meeting on March 16th at 7:00 pm. (Following the Council meeting that Committee meeting was scheduled to use the Council Auditorium on March 16th to accommodate interested citizens.) Ms. Bevington stated that the Committee was going to discuss the four projects proposed by the Committee members and would then provide Council with facts and figures.
- e. Councilman Smith made a motion to recess for Executive Session. Councilman Singer seconded.
- f. The motion to recess passed by unanimous vote.

RECESSED – 8:24 P. M.

(K) EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 1. Legal Matters:
 - a. Status Report on Pending Litigation, Legal Claims and Legal Advice.
(County Attorney) (Verbal)
- 2. Contractual Matters:
- 3. Personnel Matters:

RECONVENED – 9:35 P. M.

- a. Following Executive Session, Councilman Singer made a Voice Motion to rescind the salary increase for the Coroner that was previously granted due to an error in the calculation of length of service. Councilman Smith seconded the motion.
- b. The Voice Motion was approved by unanimous vote.
- c. Councilman Singer made a Voice Motion to withdraw the lawsuit against the Department of Energy without prejudice. Councilman Butler seconded the motion.
- d. Councilman Smith made a motion to amend the Voice Motion to agree to dismiss the lawsuit without prejudice on the stipulation that DOE agrees as a matter of law it may not ship plutonium to the Savannah River Site unless it first certifies to Congress that it can meet the new schedule established in 50 USCS Section 2566(b) 4 and 5. Councilman Butler seconded the amendment.
- e. The amendment passed by unanimous vote with Councilman Bunker abstaining.
- f. The amended motion passed by unanimous vote with Councilman Bunker abstaining.
- g. Councilman Singer made a Voice Motion to allow Judge Carroll to fill the recently vacated position in her office. Councilman Barton seconded.

- h. The Voice Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- i. Councilman Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Butler seconded.
- j. The motion to adjourn passed by unanimous vote.

(L) ADJOURNMENT – 9:45 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

SIGNED:

Tamara Sullivan, Council Clerk

Ronnie Young, Chairman